

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1. (currently amended) A hot water vessel containing water under pressure vessel having an anode rod suspended therewithin, said anode rod being an Anode Rod Depletion Indicator consisting essentially of:
  - a core wire arranged within an anode rod;
  - said core wire having at least one longitudinal passageway and at least one substantially lateral passageway communicating with said longitudinal passageway at a predetermined location along the length of the core wire;
  - actuator means in communication with an end of said longitudinal passageway;
  - indicator means for indicating that said anode rod is depleted, said indicator means being connected to said actuator means;
  - wherein when said anode rod is depleted to an extent sufficient to expose a predetermined amount of said core wire so that the pressurized a fluid surrounding said anode rod flows into said lateral passageway and said longitudinal passageway and pressurizes until reaching a threshold pressure which triggers said actuator;
  - said indicator means is displaced by said actuator means to a position which indicates that said anode rod is depleted; and
  - wherein said threshold pressure which triggers said actuator is reached when the predetermined amount of exposure of the core wire is selected from at least the radius of the anode, and at least 50% of the thinnest cross section of the anode.
2. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said actuator means comprises a pressure gauge.

3. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said actuator means comprises a piston.

4. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said actuator means comprises a switch.

5. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said indicator means includes a light for indicating that said anode rod is depleted.

6. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said indicator means includes an audible indication.

7. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said indicator means includes means for remote indication that said anode rod is depleted.

8. (original) The device according to claim 1, comprising at least a second substantially lateral passageway communicating with said longitudinal passageway.

9. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said longitudinal passageway is positioned in the center of said core wire.

10. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said longitudinal passageway is offset from a center of said core wire.

11. (original) The device according to claim 1, further comprising a switch; and wherein said actuator means actuates said switch to cut off at least one of a fluid supply and a fuel supply.

12. (canceled)

13. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said substantially lateral passageway is arranged at one of an acute and obtuse angle relative to said longitudinal passageway.

Claims 14-21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) An Anode Rod Depletion Indicator consisting essentially of: an anode rod having at least one longitudinal hollowed passageway and at least one substantially lateral hollowed passageway located at a predetermined location along said anode rod and communicating with said longitudinal hollowed passageway;

actuator means in communication with an upper end of said longitudinal hollowed passageway;

indicator means for indicating that said anode rod is depleted, said indicator means being connected to said actuator means;

wherein when said anode rod is depleted to an extent sufficient so that a fluid surrounding said anode rod flows into said lateral hollowed passageway and in said longitudinal hollowed passageway and pressurizes until reaching a threshold pressure which triggers said actuator means; and

said indicator means is displaced by said actuator means to a position which indicates that said anode rod is depleted;

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wherein said threshold pressure which triggers said actuator is reached when the  
predetermined amount of exposure of the core wire is selected from at least the radius of the  
anode, and at least 50% of the thinnest cross section of the anode.